

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development agency has awarded a \$3,750 Water and Waste Disposal Grant to the Village of Marathon.

“This is a critical first step for the Village of Marathon to improve water delivery and water pressure throughout the village, including local schools,” **said Arcuri**. “This is a classic example of how even a small amount of federal resources can improve the quality of life for Upstate communities. Grants like this allow localities to study and evaluate the best possible options for improving water services to local residents, businesses, and schools. I’m pleased to see federal resources going to help local communities, and will continue to work on the federal level to improve water infrastructure.”

The grant will be used to study a potential joint water project with the Marathon Central School to improve water distribution (water quality and pressure) for both the Village residents and the school system. Ultimate goals may include: improvements in water pressure, potential elimination of double pumping, and potential construction of new storage. The population served by the grant is 1,063.

“We appreciate this USDA grant to study what it is going to take to improve water pressure in the Village. In some of the Village’s higher elevations there is low water pressure and this grant will allow us to see what options are available. This is small-town U.S. and I appreciate somebody paying attention to us,” **said Mayor John Pitman**.

“We’re pleased to provide this planning grant to the Village of Marathon,” **said Patrick H. Brennan, State Director for USDA Rural Development in New York**

. “This grant will help Marathon identify ways to improve water service and is an example USDA Rural Development’s commitment New York’s rural communities.”

In fiscal year 2006, the USDA Rural Development’s water and waste-water program invested more than \$51 million in rural New York. In total, USDA Rural Development invested more than \$250 million in rural New York last year, raising its total investment in the state to more than \$1.2 billion since 2001.

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